

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: NATO, MARR

SUBJECT: CONTINUED SQUABBLE OVER NAMSA POSITIONS

REFS: (A) USNATO 01685 (B) STATE 03816

1. ITALIAN POL-MIL COUNSELOR JACOBUCCI CALLED ON
EUR/RPM DIRECTOR FEBRUARY 21 ON INSTRUCTIONS TO DISCUSS
NAMSA POSITIONS. JACOBUCCI'S PRESENTATION WAS
EVEN MORE BLATANT THAN THE ITALIAN CASE AS PRESENTED
BY SYG LUNS (REF A). HE CLAIMED THAT A PACKAGE DEAL
HAD IN EFFECT ALREADY BEEN WORKED OUT BETWEEN BONN
AND ROME, THAT IT ENJOYED WIDE SUPPORT FROM LUNS AND
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OTHER ALLIES, AND THAT IT LACKED ONLY A US ACQUIESCENCE
TO REFRAIN FROM OFFERING A CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION
OF CHAIRMAN. JACOBUCCI SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WISHED
ASSURANCES IN THIS REGARD SO THAT MATTERS COULD BE
RESOLVED. IN PRESENTING THE BACKGROUND FOR HIS CASE
HE SEEMED TO HAVE CERTAIN IMPRESSIONS AT VARIANCE WITH
THE FACTS, INCLUDING A BELIEF THAT IN THE LAST POLL

FOR THE GENERAL MANAGER POSITION ITALIAN CANDIDATE LT GEN SULPRIZIO RECEIVED FOUR VOTES. JACOBUCCI LIKEWISE WAS UNCLEAR AS TO THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LUNS' PREROGATIVES IN THE CASE OF NATO/IS POSITIONS AND THE SYG'S LIMITED ROLE RE NAMSA POSITIONS.

2. CLARIFYING THAT WE WERE SPEAKING ON INSTRUCTIONS, WE MADE THE SAME POINTS AMBASSADOR BENNETT HAD EXPRESSED TO LUNS (PARA 2, REF A). WE EXPLAINED ALSO THAT SINCE THE POSITION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE NAMSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAD NOT YET BEEN ADVERTISED, WE HAD NOT YET SELECTED A US CANDIDATE. BUT WE MADE IT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT WE INDEED INTENDED TO NOMINATE A US CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION OF CHAIRMAN. THEREFORE, ALTHOUGH OUR CANDIDATE HAD NOT YET BEEN IDENTIFIED, WE SAID WE WOULD UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES BE A PARTY TO THE ITALIAN PROPOSAL INTENDED TO RESOLVE THE IMPASSE CONCERNING THE OTHER NAMSA POSITION, BUT INSTEAD WOULD INSIST ON FOLLOWING NORMAL PROCEDURES.

3. WE RECALLED THAT THE US HAD REGARDED THE PROCEDURES FOLLOWED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ITALY AND BY SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS IN CONNECTION WITH THE REPLACEMENT OF ASYG PANSA AS OUT OF THE ORDINARY AND NOT FULLY SATISFACTORY. WE LINKED THIS TO WHAT COULD ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS ABNORMAL TACTICS BY THE GOI IN
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CONNECTION WITH THE FILLING OF THE NAMSA GENERAL MANAGER SLOT AND THE ATTEMPTED TAMPERING WITH THE FORTHCOMING OPENING IN THE NAMSA'S CHAIRMAN'S SLOT. WE ASKED JACOBUCCI TO REPORT TO HIS GOVERNMENT THAT WE WERE DISMAYED THAT NORMAL PROCEDURES WHICH HAD SERVED THE ALLIANCE SO WELL IN DECADES PAST SEEMED TO BE COMING UNDONE.

4. IN CONCLUSION WE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD ACCEPT THE SELECTION OF THE FRG CANDIDATE FOR NAMSA GENERAL MANAGER IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT A CLEAR MAJORITY FAVORS HIM. WE STATED THAT FOR OUR PART WE WOULD ACCEPT A MAJORITY DECISION ON THE MERITS OF THE CANDIDATES IN CONNECTION WITH THE SELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NAMSA BOARD, AND WOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE OTHERS WITH QUALIFIED CANDIDATES NOT TO NOMINATE.

5. JACOBUCCI SAID HE FRANKLY DID NOT KNOW WHY HIS GOVERNMENT FELT SO STRONGLY ON THE NOMINATION OF LT GEN SULPRIZIO BUT IN ANY CASE HE WOULD REPORT OUR REMARKS TO ROME.

6. FYI: ITALIANS HERE ARE REMARKABLY PERSISTENT
IN THIS MATTER. JACOBUCCI HAS BEEN IN THREE TIMES
WITH A PITCH FOR THE ITALIAN CANDIDATES FOR THESE NAMSA
POSTS; AND THIS LATEST DEMARCHE CAME AFTER ITALIAN

AMBASSADOR GAJA WAS INFORMED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
VEST OF OUR VIEWS.

7. ADDRESSEES MAY DRAW ON THIS GUIDANCE AND REFTELS
AS APPROPRIATE AS THIS SQUABBLE RUNS ITS COURSE.

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